

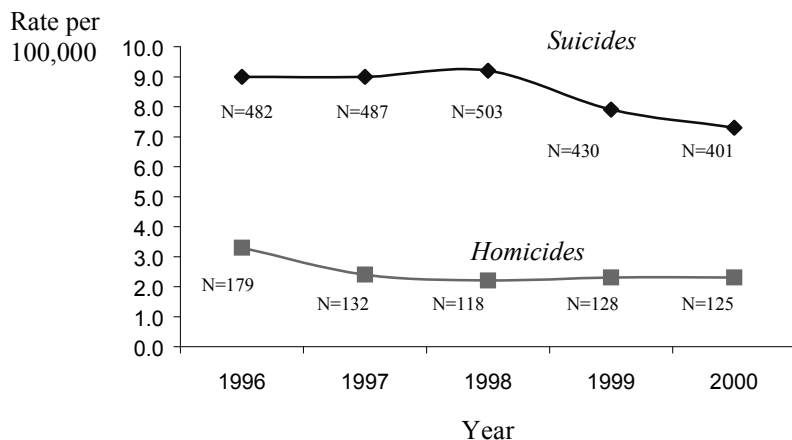
SUICIDES AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES IN MASSACHUSETTS: DATA UPDATE

Notes from the Injury Surveillance Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Spring, 2002

Suicides

Figure 1. Trend in Suicides and Homicides, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1996-2000

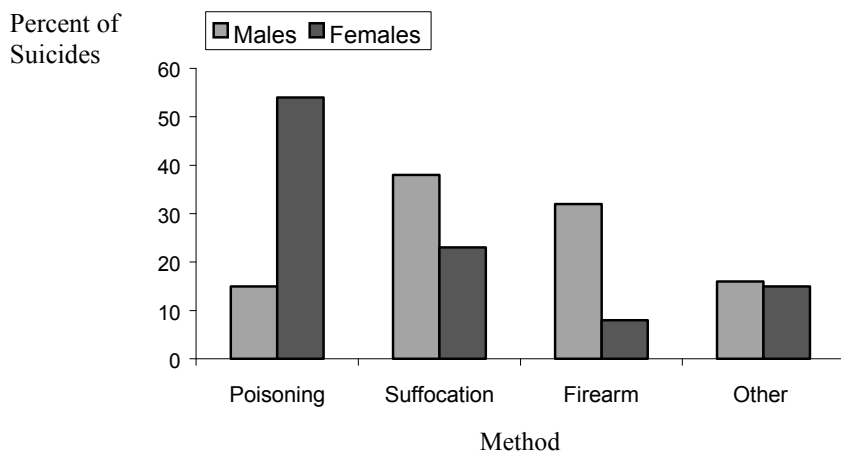


In 2000:

- Suicide took the lives of 401 Massachusetts residents.
- There were more than 3 times the number of suicides compared with homicides.
- The number of suicides decreased approximately 7% between 1999 and 2000.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

Figure 2. Suicides by Method and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2000



In 2000:

- Suffocation (including hanging, suffocation by plastic bag, etc.) was the leading method of suicide (n=135) followed closely by firearm (n=103) and poisoning (n=101).
- Selection of suicide method varied by sex. For males, suffocation and firearm were the most common methods.
- For females, the leading methods of suicide deaths were poisoning (n=57) followed by suffocation (n=24).

Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

Figure 3. Suicides by Age and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2000

Age Category	Males		Females	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate
10 to 14 years	2	1.0*	1	0.5*
15 to 24 years	45	10.2	8	1.8
25 to 34 years	58	11.5	16	3.2
35 to 44 years	70	13.9	34	6.6
45 to 54 years	52	13.0	30	7.1
55 to 64 years	32	13.5	9	3.5*
65 to 74 years	14	7.2*	4	1.6*
75 to 84 years	16	14.3*	4	2.1*
85+ years	6	19.1*	0	0.0*
Total	295	11.2	106	3.7

* Rates based on frequencies less than 20 may be unstable

¹ Rates are per 100,000 population

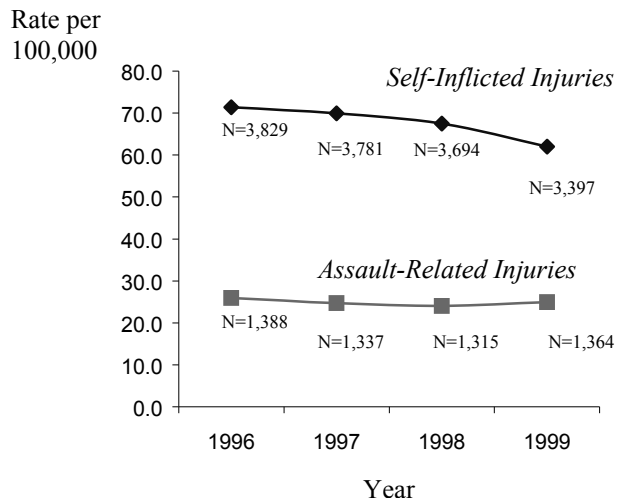
Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

In 2000:

- Males age 75 years and older experienced the highest rates of suicide (15.4/100,000).
- Females experienced the highest rates of suicide between 45 and 54 years of age (7.1/100,000).
- 65% of all suicides in Massachusetts occurred to those between ages 25 and 54 years.

Hospitalizations for Non-Fatal Self-Inflicted Injuries

Figure 4. Trend in Self-Inflicted and Assault-Related Injury Hospitalizations, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1996-1999



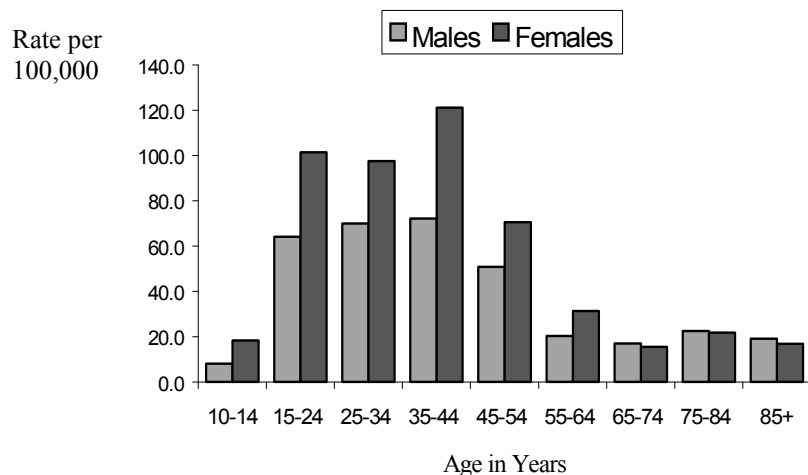
In 1999:

- There were 3,397 hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries, an 8 % decrease from 1998 (n= 3,694).
- Self-inflicted injury hospitalizations were approximately 2.5 times higher than assault-related hospitalizations.
- The majority of the hospitalized cases of self-inflicted injuries were due to poisonings (79%).
- An additional 581 cases were admitted to observation beds for self-inflicted injuries.² These cases were not included in the hospital discharge database.

²Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts Outpatient Observation Database.

Source: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database.

Figure 5. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalization Rates by Age Group and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1999

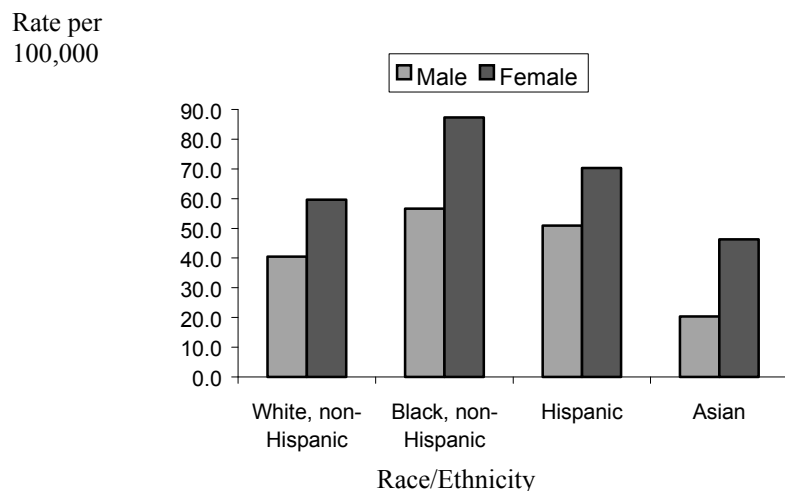


In 1999:

- Up to the age of 65, females had higher rates of self-inflicted injury than men.
- Men and women between the ages of 15 and 44 had high rates of self-inflicted injury hospitalization, with 35-44 year-old women experiencing the highest rates.

Source: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database.

Figure 6. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalization Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1999

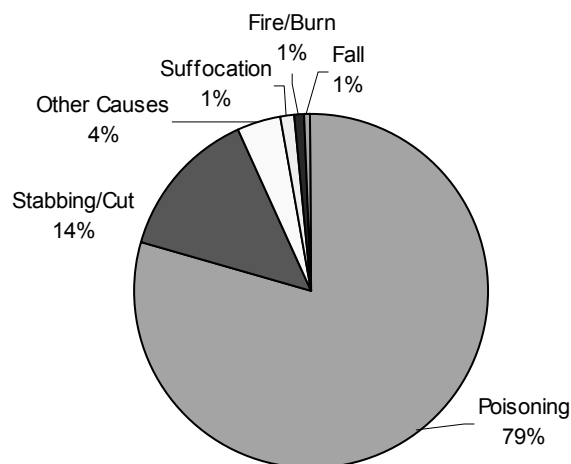


In 1999:

- Females, of all races and ethnicity, had higher rates of self-inflicted injury hospitalizations than males.
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Hispanic women had higher rates of self-inflicted injury hospitalization than White, non-Hispanic women and Asian women.

Source: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database.

Figure 7. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalizations by Method, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1999



In 1999:

- The majority (79%) of hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries were due to poisonings.
- Stabbing and cutting accounted for 14% of the hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries, while the most lethal methods (firearm and suffocation) accounted for less than 1.5% combined.

Source: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database.

For more information on suicide data or to learn more about suicide prevention activities in Massachusetts, please contact:

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